

CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIVING.

Jn.14:15 If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments.

1 Jn.2:3-6. And hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, "I know him", and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoso keepeth his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected....He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked.

The test of a moral life is its fitness for living both as an individual and as a member of society. Neither a man's possessions nor his professions determine that fitness. It is ~~his~~ character and character alone that is a true indicator of moral living. The ultimate test of a religion lies neither in its institutions nor in its beliefs, but in the standard of character into which it develops its adherents. Since Xty is a redemptive religion, ever seeking to turn man from the evil of his ways to follow after the righteousness of God, it is evident that the Xn religion and morality are closely and vitally related. So much so that they are held by many to be inseparable and even identical. But as a matter of fact the Xn Standard of Right Living, the highest type of moral living known to man, has never been put into practice

tice by any society or organization of Xn believers. The Church's aim to inculcate the Spirit of Jesus into human life and teach mankind to do the work of Christ has thus far failed in its accomplishment. Before seeking the cause of said failure, let us first consider what constitutes the Xn Standard of Right Living.

The Bible being its source and authority, the Xn Standard of Right Living is that of the Scriptures. The Old Testament expresses it in the Law and the Prophets. In the Law as set forth in the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me; Thou shalt not make for thyself any graven image; Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy; Honor the father and thy mother; Thou shalt not kill; Thou shalt not commit adultery; Thou shalt not steal; Thou shalt not bear false witness; Thou shalt not covet." In the Prophets it is summarized ⁱⁿ the words of Micah 6:8 "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?" //

Coming to the New Testament let us regard the Standard first in the light of Christ's teachings. In His day there was great dispute among the ~~rJewss~~ as to which was the greatest commandment. Most of the rabbis ~~agreeded~~ that Du.22:6,7 giving permission to rob a bird's nest was the ~~smallest~~; but there was a ~~dâ~~cided difference of opinion in regard to the greatest of the laws. Some maintained it was the one respecting the observance of the Sabbath; some the law of circumcisions; others held that it was the one concerning fringes and phylacteries; while still others insisted that the omission of ceremonial ablutions was as bad as homicide. Bearing these hairsplitting ~~contntions~~^e in mind we can the more appreciate the noble and profound answer of the Master Teacher to the question of the smart lawyer, "What is the greatest commandment?", "Thou shalt love the Lord^{thy} God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus put it in different words but in the same spirit, "Whatsoever ye would ^{therefore} that men should do unto

even so
 you, do ye ~~even~~ also unto them." The Golden Rule Standard! According to the teachings of the Apostles the same Standard prevails. John, in his words of our text, pointed it out to be a keeping of Christ's commandments and a walking after the manner of the Master. Doing what Jesus did is consistent Xn living. Peter wrote, "Giving all diligence, supply in your faith virtue, and in your virtue knowledge, and in your knowledge self-control, and in you self-control patience, and in your patience godliness, and in your godliness brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness love." The Apostle Paul presents to us the same high Standard in Col. 3:3,5,12 "For ye died, and your life is hid wth Christ in God. Put to death therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetness, ...put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, railing, shameful speaking out of your mouth:....Put on, therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another and forgiving each other, even as the Lord for-

gave you. ... and above all these things put on LOVE which is the bond of Perfectness."

I. The failure of present day Xn living to maintain the Scriptural Standard of Righr Living.

1. Br. Bulgin and the woman from Boston.

What she was on the streetcar and what shw was on the platform represents Xns in the every day life and Xns at worship.

2. The bad reflector on the train.

3. The incident on the streetcar in S.F.

" Pure Rye Whisky
Tones the body
Brightens the intillect
Invigorates the soul

The drunken man entering the car.
Bleared eyes, Bloated face, Collapsed body.

II. Can the Failuse be accounted for?

1. The perfectness of the Standard and its dependence upon character.

2. The emphasizing other than the Standard itself.

- a. During the sub-apostolic and Medieval periods. *so because of material things*
- a/ by doctrinal controversy,
 - b/ by external form of ritual and worship.
 - c/ by organization.
 - d/ by sinful alliance with the State.

- B. Present day divergencies.
- a/ those already mentioned.
 - b/ the non-application of Xn principles to modern conditions.
 - 1. In private life. 2. In corporate life. 3. In public life. 4. In social life.

The
III. Requisites to consistent Xn Living. *according to the Scriptures*
the house built around the Elm tree

- 1. Being true to our relationship in X to God.
 - a/ X's oneness with the Father
 - b/ X's Will and the Father's.
 - c/ X's vision of the Kingdom of God.
- 2. Being true to our relationship in X to our fellow men.
 - a/ X's identification with humanity.
 - b/ X's attitude towards mankind that of savior and not of judge.
 - The unitarian.
 - c/ X's sinless living.

The pious old man in prayer meeting. "What shall I do to be saved?"

"Pay John Williams what you owe him for that yoke of oxen."

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a Xn